

ANN LANDERS



No Excuse Needed

Dear Ann Landers: A close friend has been borrowing my clothes for the past five years. Mitzi can afford to buy what she needs, but she says my taste is better than hers and when she wants to look smashing she feels more confident in my clothes than in her own.

We are exactly the same size, and Mitzi is a very neat girl but I don't care how careful a person is — it's impossible to return a dress or a pair of shoes in exactly the same condition. A seam goes here, a bead comes off there, a knitted skirt snags, a patent heel gets scratched — something is bound to happen.

Mitzi has borrowed everything from my evening bag to my wig. I have never borrowed anything from her.

Last night I went to put on my best cocktail dress and Mitzi had the shoes that match it. My husband was furious. He gave me orders never to lend her anything again. How can I say no without losing her friendship? I can't tell her my husband has given me orders, can I? What excuse can I give? — BIG HEARTED BERT

Dear Bert: You don't need an excuse. Just tell Mitzi you've decided not to lend your clothes any more. Leave your husband out of it. Offer to shop with her occasionally since she likes your taste. If your refusal to lend her your clothes terminates the friendship, you haven't lost much.

Dear Ann Landers: I was interested in the letter from the woman who insisted that alcoholism "runs in families" and is therefore an inherited illness. She went on to say all her husband's brothers are drunks. The only one in the family who doesn't touch the stuff is his sister. Then she added, "Charlotte is a religious nut. A couple of drinks might improve her personality a lot."

What this world needs is fewer boozers and more religious nuts. I am sick to death of being with bright people who proceed to pickle their brains in alcohol the minute the sun goes down. It's a sad sight to witness a charming woman who suddenly talks gibberish, laughs too loud and makes a complete fool of herself. I've seen too many brilliant men become repetitious, belligerent and vulgar after three drinks. It's sickening.

The pity of it is that these people imagine liquor improves their personality when nothing could be further from the truth. At the risk of being called a Blue Nose for the millionth time, will you say it again? I can't put words together the way you can. — STAR WITNESS

Dear Star: Thanks for your testimony. There's nothing wrong with the way you put words together, dear. You spoke the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Ann Landers will be glad to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of Press-Herald enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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Count Marco

Bury the Past To Start Again

Nine Million American women were widowed last year, so just think this could be your lucky year — that is, if you're unhappily unmarried.

Should this happen, a good many of you will want to discard your widow weeds of basic black and pearls as soon as possible and get into the swing of things again on the marriage-go-around.

The Chinese celebrate the new year cycle by paying all their old bills, hoping to start with a clean abacus. American widows hope to start a new marriage cycle, but still hang onto the old.

As a widow you must, before tackling marriage again, destroy all evidence of the last husband. Perhaps this sounds cruel, but a new groom sweeps clean (at least in his mind) any connection with other men in your past.

I wince when I hear a woman say in front of her present

spouse, "Now Joe, my last husband, Lord rest his soul, used to say . . ."

Why bother? Joe can't hear you. It's much better to credit it to John, your present husband, even if he didn't say it. He'll think he did if you say he did.

Besides unloading the late departed's name, unload all of his personal possessions and household effects, particularly the bedroom furnishings. Sell the house, the clothes, his and yours, particularly any dress he admired, and have all your jewels reset. With all of the old out of the way and converted into cash or securities, the new husband will be even more inspired to provide you with everything you don't obviously have, including his love.

As my dear aunt the Contessa says, "Widows are things of the past, brides are women of the future, and it is the smart bride who gives up her past for the future — no matter her age."



FINDING EXPRESSION . . . Recreation leader R. Lee Miller offers helpful advice to two budding Michelangelos, Danny Nichols and Sandra Schmidt, who seem completely absorbed with their crayon art work at Victor Park. The spacious park, located at 4727 Emerald St., offers everything from picnic

facilities to volleyball classes. A sheltered kitchen for use on cold or windy days is currently under construction. Other plans for the future include the installation of additional volleyball and tetherball courts.

Victor Park Promises Fun For Entire Family

By ROBIN NEWCOMER

Play equipment in a Western setting, a spacious picnic area complete with fire places for cooking and a large grassy field, make Torrance's Victor Park a place which the whole family can enjoy.

The 6.3 acre park is staffed in the winter between 3 and 5 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays by four recreation personnel, who during the hours the park is supervised, conduct a variety of planned recreation activities. On weekday mornings, Tiny Tots and Women's Daytime Vol-

leyball classes are held.

Full time principal recreation leader, Elsie Pestoff, who has worked at Victor Park for the past two years, is assisted by Bill Zazueta, R. Lee Miller and Madeline Caffaro. Volunteer leaders from El Camino College who are taking recreation classes also come to Victor for field work and training.

A SHELTERED kitchen area, which can be used on cold and windy days by the park staff as well as the public, is presently being constructed at the five-year-old park. Other plans for

the near future include making volleyball and tetherball courts in part of the parking lot area located behind the Isabel Henderson Library which is adjacent to the park.

Each day brings something different to Victor Park and the end of the summer does not signify the end of fun. In the past, children have participated in special events including music, drama, crafts, sports and games.

ELSIE PESTOFF who first entered into recreation with Torrance in 1957 as a part-time leader while teaching at Gardena High School, was once the city's storyteller and creative

Illegal Use of Guns

Townsend Bill Seeks Longer Prison Terms

A bill by Assemblyman L. E. (Larry) Townsend (D-Torrance) to strengthen the penalties for the illegal use of guns has been introduced into the legislature.

The measure requires additional punishment of not less than 10 years for any person convicted of a crime while armed with a firearm. Such offenses include robbery, assault, battery, murder, rape, burglary or kidnapping.

For a second or subsequent conviction under similar circumstances, the law would require additional punishment of imprisonment for "not less" than 25 years. The term would run consecutively.

The Torrance lawmaker said he introduced the bill because of the greater number of crimes

having been committed over the past few years by the use of firearms.

"The purpose of the bill is obvious," Townsend said. "We must make it clear that the criminal who arms himself with a gun will be dealt with severely in every case."

Townsend said his measure does not interfere with the legitimate use of firearms by law-abiding citizens and does not involve gun registration.

Townsend's bill is similar to a strong gun law now in effect in the state of Alaska.

Auction of House Set For Feb. 4

The County Flood Control District will sell a Harbor City house at a public auction Feb. 4, Supervisor Burton W. Chace said today.

The dwelling, at 24214 Censor Ave., must be moved to make way for a storm drain project.

Chace said the auction will start at 10 a.m. Feb. 4 and will be held at the site. A minimum bid of \$100 will be required.

The single-story frame and stucco dwelling contains about 1,274 square feet and the sale will include a detached 360-square-foot garage.

Assessor's Offices Expanded

Additional space for the County Assessor's office in the Southwest area has been authorized, Supervisor Burton W. Chace said today.

The Board of Supervisors has approved a 2½-year lease for two more office suites in the present assessor's headquarters at 2049 Pacific Coast Hwy., Lomita.

"The county is leasing space until a permanent assessor's office headquarters can be developed," Chace said. "The space is necessary so the residents of Lomita, Torrance, the Beach Cities, and the Palos Verdes Peninsula can be served locally."

Under terms of the revised lease, the county will pay \$1,758 monthly for the total office space in the office building. The lease runs through May, 1971.



HERE IT IS . . . West High School's Librarian, Mrs. Brown (left), shows Mrs. Smith, assistant principal, a special feature of the library's new book catalogue. The catalogue eliminates the cumbersome card-file formerly used.

Warrior Trails

By Cathy Focarazzo

It's a new year at West High School and students re-entered with less enthusiasm than they had when they left.

Who can blame them for not wanting to return to school after a relaxing two-week holiday? But in spite of that, it's somewhat exciting to begin a brand new year, it gives you a feeling of being refreshed, ready to tackle goals in life with a fresh start.

I know seniors especially relish the thought of 1969 having finally arrived because it is now officially their graduating year. During 1968 they felt like seniors but now in 1969 they feel like graduating seniors. All the graduation ceremonies begin taking shape and seniors begin feeling the tingling sensation of knowing that soon they will no longer be high school students.

AS A SENIOR myself, I know I am really looking forward to graduation, because I will finally be released from what now seems like a grown-up grammar school to begin a totally independent life in college. When I first entered high school, it looked so large and unconquerable and now it's simply a goal accomplished.

I am sure though in a few years all the eager-to-graduate seniors will look back on West with a somewhat nostalgic fondness and will sincerely miss it. It's very similar to a nest of birds when the mother sends them out of the secure comforts of the nest, into the wide expanse of world beyond. Then when they have flown the coop, so to speak, a new group has already taken their places.

SURELY, everyone, no matter who they are has some good memories of high school. After all, if you spend several of your most important and formative years in one place, you are bound to account for some memorable and probably interesting experiences.

All the mishaps, misjudgments, obstacles, objectives and occasions will prob-

Throughout County Youth Councils Asked by Board

Creation of official youth advisory bodies by cities throughout Los Angeles County has been urged by the Board of Supervisors, according to Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

On Chace's motion, Supervisors his week accepted a recommendation to this effect from the County Commission on Youth.

The commission, in a report to the Board, asked that each of the county's cities be contacted and urged to create an official youth advisory commission. While each youth council would work independently, its efforts could be coordinated with the County Youth Commission.

"IF EACH city would accept our recommendation and establish such youth councils, it would give our young people an active voice in their community," Chace said.

"The various youth committees could attack local problems at the direction of their city council. They would add a new dimension to the job of positive community development," he said.

Chace cited the successful efforts of the County Commission on Youth, headed by Chairman Robert Lee of San Pedro. Lee, who was appointed by Chace, is a student at USC and has been instrumental in guiding the Commission in many projects.

"IF EACH city's commission is as successful as the county's advisory group, the impact on Southern California would be tremendous," Chace said. "The Board of Supervisors gets positive results — as well as good advice — from this group of young people."

Chace pointed out that if the various cities' youth commissions worked in harmony with the county group, their voices would add depth and breadth to the work of the county commission.

"The more cross-sections of young peoples' opinions we hear, the more informed we will be when it comes time to make important decisions affecting youth and the community," he said.

CHAIRMAN Lee also won Supervisors' support for a proposal which will involve young people in various county departmental

operations. The board instructed all county departments with any type of youth program to appoint youth representatives to attend the county commission meetings.

"This will insure coordination of many programs and will get across the message of the board's desire to involve young people and their ideas in the planning processes," Chace said.

UC Bank Earnings Increase

United California Bank's net operating earnings for 1968 reached a record high of \$27,516,963, an increase of 12.3 per cent over the \$24,512,266 earned the previous year, it was announced by Frank L. King, chairman of the board.

King reported earnings per share were \$4.57 based on the 6,024,473 average shares outstanding in 1968, compared with \$4.07 on the 6,021,107 average number of shares outstanding in 1967.

Fourth-quarter earnings were \$7,220,330 or \$1.20 a share. 1967 fourth-quarter earnings were \$6,924,767 or \$1.15 a share.

ACCORDING to King, factors contributing to the growth of earnings included: growth of deposits, particularly demand deposits, provided additional funds for profitable loan and security investments; increased interest rates resulted in higher yields on loan and security portfolios; profitability of bond dealer operations increased substantially.

Deposits at year end were \$3,765,607,866, up 9.9 per cent over the \$3,426,526,592 reported a year ago.

Loans less reserves were \$2,656,049,208 compared with \$2,340,256,612 a year ago, an increase of 13.5 per cent.

SECURITIES totaled \$787,057,627 compared with \$654,247,349 a year ago, an increase of 20.3 per cent.

Capital funds moved up to \$305,670,628, a gain of \$2,657,452. Total resources at year end were \$4,082,381,824 a year ago, a gain of \$575,554,764.

In 1968, United California Bank established 11 new offices in California and one new office in London, England, bringing the total number of UCB branch offices at year end to 217.

Meeting Slated

Members of the Lomita Planning Commission will convene at 7 p.m. Monday for a regular meeting. The session will be held at the Lomita Recreation Center, 24428 Eschelma Ave.

A Letter . . . To My Son

By Tom Rische
High School Teacher and Youth Worker

Dear Bruce,

Why do I write these letters to you?

Because they help me think through what I think — and sometimes by the time I get it all on paper, I don't think what I thought I thought at all.

Sometimes, I feel like the teacher in a cartoon, in which he was talking to a former student.

"Why, Mr. Brown," said the ex-student, inspecting a test. "Aren't these the same exam questions you asked 20 years ago?"

"Yes," replied Mr. Brown, "but they've changed the answers."

These letters help me to sort out the logical from the emotional parts of my thinking — and to help me realize at least in part why I think as I do. More than once, I've ended up disagreeing with the point I originally thought I'd try to make.

Since I started writing these letters, more have been discarded than used in print (two other ideas for this week already are in the wastebasket, and this is the fourth draft of this one).

When ideas are rattling around in people's heads, they often sound differently than they do when they get out in the open — on paper or in speech.

I've heard and read too many off-the-top-of-the-head speakers and writers who thought they were being profound, but instead were only rambling and incoherent.

Hoping that these letters will help you — and anybody else who reads them — think a bit more, even though you come to other conclusions.

YOUR DAD